



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY  
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF OF NAVAL OPERATIONS  
2000 NAVY PENTAGON  
WASHINGTON, DC 20350-2000

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Ser DNS-36RH/19U102594

March 11, 2019

Sent via email to: [69822-38142812@requests.muckrock.com](mailto:69822-38142812@requests.muckrock.com)

Mr. Russ Kick  
MuckRock News  
DEPT MR 69822 411A Highland Ave  
Somerville, MA 02144

Dear Mr. Kick,

This is in reference to your Freedom of Information Act (FOIA)/Privacy Act (PA) request dated February 25, 2019. Your request was received in our office on the same day and assigned case number DON-NAVY-2019-004095.

Although our office has already begun processing your request, we will not be able to respond within the FOIA's 20-day statutory time period as there are unusual circumstances as:

- (1) The need to search for and collect records from a facility geographically separated from this office;
- (2) The potential volume of records responsive to your request; and/or
- (3) The need for consultation with one or more agencies or DoD components having a substantial interest in either the determination or the subject matter of the records.

At least one, if not more of these scenarios applies or would likely apply to your request. Therefore, we are availing ourselves of the 10 working days' extension of response time provided in the Department of the Navy FOIA/PA regulations (32 CFR §701.8(g)(2)).

While this office handles FOIA and Privacy Act requests for both the Secretary of the Navy (SECNAV) and Chief of Naval Operations (CNO) and other component offices, we do not actually hold their records and our office is not geographically located with these organizations. As we do not hold the records, until the required record searches are complete, we are unable to estimate the potential volume of records or the number of consultations that will be required to make a release determination.

Your request has been placed in our queue and is being worked based on the order in which the request was received. Our current administrative work load is approximately 2500 open requests.

In some instances, it has been found that requesters who narrow the scope of their requests experience a reduction in the time needed to process their requests. If you have questions or wish to discuss the reformulation of your request you may contact our FOIA Service Center Line (202) 685-0412 or send an email to [donfoia-pa@navy.mil](mailto:donfoia-pa@navy.mil). Please refer to the DON-NAVY case number provided earlier in this letter when making inquiries into your request.

If you are not satisfied with this action, under 32 CFR §701.12(a), you may appeal the extension of the statutory twenty days for processing your request by writing to:

Office of the Judge Advocate General  
1322 Patterson Ave SE Ste 3000  
Washington Navy Yard, DC 20374-5066

Your appeal must be postmarked within ninety calendar days from the date of this letter. A copy of your initial request and this letter must accompany the appeal. The appeal should be marked "FREEDOM OF INFORMATION APPEAL" both on the envelope and the face of the letter.

In order to expedite the appellate process and ensure full consideration of your appeal, your appeal should contain a brief statement of the reasons you believe this initial decision to be in error.

For this determination, you have the right to seek dispute resolution services from either the DoD Navy Component FOIA Public Liaison, Mr. Chris Julka, at: [Christopher.a.julka@navy.mil](mailto:Christopher.a.julka@navy.mil), via phone: (703) 697-0031; or by contacting the Office of Government Information Services at: (<https://ogis.archives.gov/>), (202) 741-5770, [ogis@nara.gov](mailto:ogis@nara.gov).

Questions regarding the action this office has taken to process your request may be directed to our FOIA Service Center at (202) 685-0412 or via email at [donfoia-pa@navy.mil](mailto:donfoia-pa@navy.mil).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'R. Strong', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

R. Strong  
Deputy Director,  
DON FOIA/PA Program Office